

#### **IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for wrapping a rubber strip around a forming drum, ~~comprising the steps of:~~ with the help of a rubber strip wrapping apparatus comprising an injection device operative for extruding an unvulcanized rubber strip from an extrusion outlet and a guide roll device connected to said injection device and having a guide roll rotatable about a guide roll axis and movable to and between an extended state and a retracted state, the method comprising the steps of:

~~continuously extruding an~~ said unvulcanized rubber strip from ~~an~~ said extrusion outlet of said injection device;

providing said extruded unvulcanized rubber strip directly from said extrusion outlet to said guide roll;

pressing said rubber strip by ~~a~~ said guide roll, when said guide roll is in the extended state, against said forming drum under tension, ~~a pressed portion of said rubber strip~~ said guide roll and ~~an~~ said extrusion outlet of said injection device disposed apart from one another at a length defining a space therebetween, the space sized to receive overshoot amounts of the extruded rubber strip while extruding the unvulcanized rubber strip;

rotating said forming drum in synchronism with extrusion of said rubber strip so that said guide roll is driven when in the extended state; and

wrapping the rubber strip guided by said guide roll around said forming drum while extruding the unvulcanized rubber strip.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method for wrapping the rubber strip according to claim 1, ~~further comprising steps of:~~ with the help of the rubber strip wrapping apparatus further comprising a cutter device connected to said guide roll device and having a cutting element operative to rotate about the guide roll axis, further comprising the steps of:

~~releasing~~ moving said guide roll from ~~said forming drum~~ the extended state to the retracted state where said guide roll discontinues pressing rubber strip against said forming drum thereby relieving tension therebetween at a final stage of wrapping of the rubber strip to form a clearance between said forming drum and said guide roll; and

cutting off the rubber strip within the clearance by rotating the cutting element about the guide roll axis.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method for wrapping the rubber strip according to claim 2, ~~further comprising a step of~~ with the help of the rubber strip wrapping apparatus further comprising a press roll device having a press roll, further comprising the step of:

pressing a cut end of said rubber strip by a said press roll against the said forming drum.

4. (WITHDRAWN) A device for wrapping rubber strip around a forming drum while extruding an unvulcanized rubber strip from an injection device, comprising a guide roll arranged between said injection device and said forming drum through a freely stretchable and contractible arm member along a supplying channel for said rubber strip, wherein said rubber strip is pressed by said guide roll against said forming drum under tension when said arm is stretched, as well as a space for absorbing variations in an amount of extrusion of the rubber strip is formed between said guide roll and an extrusion outlet of said injection device.

5. (WITHDRAWN) The method for wrapping the rubber strip according to claim 4, further comprising a cutting device which cuts off the rubber strip within a clearance, said clearance being arranged between the forming drum and the guide roll when the arm member is contracted.

6. (WITHDRAWN) The method for wrapping the rubber strip according to claim 5, further comprising a press roll for pressing a cut end of said rubber strip against said forming drum provided at the vicinity of said guide roll.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for wrapping the rubber strip according to claim 1, wherein the length of the space ~~are~~ is in a range of 100 mm to 200 mm.

8. - 11. (CANCELED).